

## *Two Worlds, One Sky*

One mystical and magical afternoon, Jasper the alien was about to perform his signature move, a triple flip, double spin and a single leap, when suddenly his head felt dizzy. His wings stopped flapping, his arms and legs went floppy and then... "THUMP!"

The next thing Jasper knew, he was lying on the ground. "Oh, my head! I am so tired!" he groaned.

Jasper lived on a planet called The Big Planet. It was a very unusual place because there was a sun on both sides of the planet. No matter where you went, the sun followed you, so there was never any shade.

Poor Jasper lay on the boiling hot ground for 15 whole minutes with no water, no shade and, most importantly, no sleep. His body felt like it was roasting, while the outside of him was dripping with sweat. Just as his eyes slowly closed from the heat, he heard a voice in the distance.

"Hello? Is anyone there?" All of the other aliens had already hidden from the blazing sun. "Oh my goodness! Are you okay?" the voice called. "I'm an astronaut. My name is Riley!" Jasper gave a weak smile. "Could you help me find somewhere with shade? That would be amazing."

"Of course!" Riley replied. Riley showed Jasper a map of Earth. Jasper stared at it and laughed. "It's far too confusing! Thank the Lord of Aliens, I wasn't born on Earth!"

The two climbed into Riley's spaceship and blasted off towards Earth. About ten minutes later, after what felt like forever to Jasper, they landed in Rome and checked into a fancy hotel called The Richest of the Witches. Best of all, it was night-time.

Finally... Jasper could sleep.

A few hours later, Jasper woke up at 10 o'clock the next morning to the delicious smell of breakfast. Riley had made pancakes.

"AAAH! WHAT IS THAT POISON?" Jasper shouted. Riley burst into laughter. "It's not poison! It's pancakes. Trust me." Jasper cautiously took one tiny bite. "Mmm... okay... this might be the best thing I've ever tasted." Within minutes, the pancakes had completely disappeared!

After breakfast, Jasper and Riley caught an Uber to The Louvre Museum to see the famous Mona Lisa. The second Jasper walked through the doors, everyone began staring. Some people took photos while others screamed like headless chooks.

Jasper quickly waved his hands. "My name is Jasper! I'm a friendly alien. Please don't be scared. I promise I won't invade your planet!"

The crowd slowly relaxed... although a few people still looked a little suspicious. Finally, Jasper stood in front of the Mona Lisa.

"WHAT? It's tiny!" he exclaimed. "I thought it would be as big as my bottom... although, to be fair, my bottom is actually quite small!" Riley couldn't stop giggling.

She showed Jasper painting after painting. Every artwork was different. Some had thick paint, some had smooth brushstrokes, and others were hundreds of years old. One painting had even been created by a 12-year-old artist.

"It looks like an adult painted it!" Jasper gasped.

When they reached the final painting, Jasper's eyes sparkled. It showed a lady painted with thick, textured brushstrokes. "It's PERFECT!" he cried. His smile stretched wider than a rainbow. "Everything here has been interesting, different and entertaining," Jasper said happily. "Thank you so much, Riley."

"It was my pleasure!" Riley smiled. Then she suddenly looked at her watch.

"Oh no! We have to get back to your planet! I have a very important event in four hours." Jasper quickly handed Riley her space suit and they jumped back into the spaceship.

"KA-BOOM!" Off they flew through space. The trip home only took about twenty minutes. Along the way they chatted.

"So," Riley asked, "did you enjoy your time on Earth? And... How often do aliens sleep?" Jasper grinned. "I had an EXTRAORDINARY time! And as for sleeping... I only need to sleep once every one billion years."

Riley's eyes nearly popped out of her head. "Wow!" she whispered. "You are one lucky alien!" Before long, they landed safely back on The Big Planet. The moment Jasper stepped outside, he stretched his wings.

"It feels so good to be home," he smiled. "Thank you, Riley. You really saved me." Riley smiled, waved goodbye through the spaceship window and blasted back towards Earth. From that day on, Jasper told all his family and friends about his incredible adventure with Riley.

Although they lived on different planets, they never forgot each other and often wondered what the other was doing.

And who knows...

Maybe one day, they'll meet again for another unforgettable adventure.